

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Original) A magnetic recording/reproducing apparatus using a perpendicular magnetic recording double-layer film medium with a soft underlayer and a reproducing head constituted by a magneto-resistive effect head with a shield film, said apparatus comprising a partial-response equalization circuit having frequency characteristic of cutting off low-frequency signal components inclusive of DC components, and a maximum-likelihood decoder, wherein a reproduced signal outputted from said reproducing head is processed by said partial-response equalization circuit and then inputted into said maximum-likelihood decoder to be data-reproduced.

2.-14. (Cancel)